

Library embarks on new 5-year plan

By Glen Warchol

Deseret News staff writer

1-23-85

If the Salt Lake City Library's second five-year plan is successful, the farthest-ranging curiosities should find satisfaction at the library.

Instead of focusing on physical growth, the new plan — which will guide the library system through 1990 — will center on developing the quality and breadth of reference materials and improving the library user's ability to find the information he needs.

"We devote a tremendous amount of resources to information," said assistant library director Eileen Longworth. "We want to make sure we are giving out accurate answers."

The five-year plan also is aimed at evaluating and improving other aspects of library service, including the computer system and the direction of the library's collection.

The first draft of the five-year plan is being edited now and probably will be approved by mid-summer with few major changes, Longworth said.

The first five-year plan that ended Jan. 1 focused

on basics like expanding the collection, streamlining and training the staff and building two branch libraries, she said. The Avenues Branch opened this winter and the Anderson Branch in the Foothills section of Salt Lake City is expected to open in mid-March. Also under the 1980-85 plan, the main library was renovated and made more energy efficient, and improvements were made in older branches.

Under the new plan, the only construction planned is to add two more units to the modular-designed Avenues and Anderson branches — doubling their space.

But for the most part, the new plan will turn to enhancement of the library services, Ms. Longworth said. An information-needs study will help the library tailor the collection to the needs of its users.

"We don't know what the residents of the Salt Lake Valley need in the way of information," Ms. Longworth said. "We have an intuitive idea, but very little hard information."

One of the more basic aspects of the plan will be to find out how effectively the library staff answers questions. Studies of other library systems around

the country have shown library staffs handle reference questions with about 50-50 accuracy, Ms. Longworth said. No similar study has been done in Salt Lake City's system.

To improve the Salt Lake staff's ability to answer library-users' questions, they will be trained to ask better questions themselves. The staff will interview the questioner to find out exactly what it is that he needs before directing him to reference materials, she said.

Other library services to be evaluated and improved under the five-year plan are:

- Handicapped access to the library.
- The cataloging of library materials.
- "Networking" with other Western library systems to increase access to materials.
- Service to the city's special needs groups, including the elderly in nursing homes and preschoolers in day-care centers.
- Data base services — computerized sources of reference materials — may be added depending on the results of the information needs survey.

Coming events

Tabernacle program will commemorate Scout anniversary

Officials of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and of the Boy Scouts of America will address a special commemorative program at 6 p.m. Feb. 10 in the Salt Lake Tabernacle.

Held in conjunction with the 75th anniversary of Scouting in America, the program will feature a spectacular flag ceremony involving hundreds of Scouts, a multi-media presentation and several talks.

Speakers at the program, which will be telecast live via satellite to more than 900 stake centers throughout the United States, will be President Gordon B. Hinckley, second counselor

Arts Council sets Feb. 1 deadline for development grant applications

The Utah Arts Council has set a Feb. 1 deadline for accepting applications from eligible non-profit organizations for community arts development grants, challenge grants and technical assistance grants.

Community arts grants are available to assist organizations with arts projects aimed at serving the community. The council will match requests to a maximum of \$3,000. State funding in this category is usually awarded to first-time applicants for new projects.

Challenge grants in amounts up to \$2,500 are available semi-annually to Community Arts Councils only. The grants are designed to encourage local arts councils to develop alternate sources of funding for programs. Grant money may be used for arts projects,

programming or capital expenditures benefitting the community. The grants are awarded on a cash-in-hand, two-to-one match basis only.

Technical assistance grants are available to community-based arts organizations. Up to \$1,000 may be awarded to advance artistic development, technical capabilities and management skills. Grants must be matched on a one-to-one basis.

Applications in all three categories should be for projects scheduled to begin after May 1 and completed before Dec. 31 this year.

For additional information, call the Utah Arts Council at 533-5895.

When v